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Throughout my career my focus has been the intersection of the psychological make-up of human beings and the moral requirements that apply to human beings. What is particularly intriguing to me is the fact that while human beings are certainly capable of marvelous rational thought, an indisputable truth is that human do not always act in a rational manner. It is it utterly stunning just how irrational human beings can be in both their assessments, choices, and behavior.

A reality that must not be overlooked is that notwithstanding the capacity that human beings have fore rational thought, it is also the case that human beings have an absolutely profound need for affirmation. Indeed, receiving affirmation is so fundamental to the psychological well-being of human beings that a quite significant fact is that countless many human beings will do what is irrational and, indeed, immoral in order to receive affirmation from others. This way of viewing things sheds considerable light on the reality of evil behavior. Countless many individuals will do what is evil if they have reason to believe that they will occasion much affirmation as a result of so behaving.

From the standpoint of evolutionary theory, it is manifestly clear that fitting-in has been absolutely fundamental to the survival of human beings, since fitting-in anchors genuine cooperation. So, there is a very straightforward sense in which, from the standpoint of sheer survival, fitting-in can be more important than doing what is morally right.

The concluding point of the preceding paragraph is underwritten by the truth that, notwithstanding the capacity to be rational, there is very straightforward sense in which fitting-in has greater importance to human beings owing to the reality that fitting-in is the gateway to both survival and affirmation. Generally speaking, human beings cannot survive on their own; and moreover, they do not outgrow their need for affirmation. A most poignant truth is that not only do human beings enter into this world with the need for affirmation which at the outset typically takes the form of majestic parental love, but it is also an incontrovertible truth that human beings never outgrow the need for affirmation. And this point applies equally across all sexual configurations and all ethnic configurations and regardless of intellectual abilities. My work is profoundly animated by these considerations.

A final comment: We do not typically think of animals as being capable of self-deception. An eagle does not think that it is a whale and a whale does not think that it is a dog. And so on. However, an indisputable truth is that

human beings have the capacity for self-deception. My view is that the capacity for self-deception is fundamentally tied the biological configuration that has given rise to the psychological proclivity that human beings have to fit-in, which is anchored by the deep and immutable truth that human beings have a profound and abiding need for affirmation.